

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 7-17 were withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-6 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 11-17 have been cancelled, claims 6-10 withdrawn, claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended, and claims 18-21 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2-5, and 18-21 are currently under consideration. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2-5, and new claims 18-21 may be found in the claims as originally filed, for example. No new matter has been added. Cancellation and amendment of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication or abandonment of any unclaimed subject matter by Applicants, and moreover Applicants have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any subject matter in continuation and/or divisional applications.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner states "the claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There is no disclosure of a dual cone bearing assembly, whit the cone apexes of the cones being near each other, in combination with a single grooved journal bearing axially spaced therefrom."

Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 6 is an originally filed claim, the claims forming part of the original disclosure. (see, e.g., MPEP § 608.01(I)). Accordingly, Applicants submit the specification does reasonably convey to one skilled in the art, at the time of the application was filed, that the inventors had possession of the subject matter of claim 6. Applicants note that the Examiner has not provided any evidence or reasons why persons skilled in the art would not have

recognized in the present disclosure a description of the invention. (see, e.g., MPEP § 2163 I. A.). Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection on these ground be withdrawn.

Substitute Specification

The substitute specification filed October 13, 2004 stands objected to because of the several informalities listed on page 2 of the Office Action. As indicated herein paragraphs [0020] to [0025] have been amended to correct the identified informalities.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In particular, the examiner states that the subject matter of claim 6 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim. Applicants have withdrawn claim 6 and the rejection is now moot.

The drawings are objected to because in Figure 5, the reference lines for numbers 502 and 504 do not terminate to indicate the bearing cones as required, and because Figure 2 includes the reference number 262 twice, the one in the upper left center of the drawing being incorrect. Applicants have amended Figures 2 and 5 herein to correct this informality.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 226 and 266 (Figure 2); and 462 (Figure 4). Applicants have amended the specification and Figures 2 and 4 herein to correct these informalities.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 201, 209, 212, 214, 217, and 246 (Figure 2); 442 (Figure 4); and 616 (Figure 6A). Applicants have amended the specification herein to correct these informalities.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, and 5 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have withdrawn claim 6 and the rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pan (U.S. Patent No. 5,246,294).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 2, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and include all the features of the base claim. Applicants believe that the rejections in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph have been overcome and therefore request allowance of claim 1 and dependent claims 3-5.

Claim 18 includes the features of original claims 1 and 4, where the features of claim 4 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and include all the features of the base claim. Applicants believe that the rejections in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph have been overcome and therefore request allowance of claim 18 and dependent claims 19 -21.

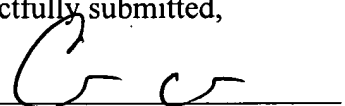
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712006810. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 7th, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 2, 4, and 5 as detailed herein.

Attachment: 3 Replacement sheets